

## NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON HYPERICUM

HENRY J. LOTT

THE STATEMENT by Clos, "Peu de genres ont été soumis à plus de vicissitudes que le grand genre *Hypericum* . . ." (Bull. Soc. Bot. France, sér. 3, 1: 290. 1894) is hardly an exaggeration. The complicated nomenclature which has resulted from these vicissitudes is the probable explanation of the large number of invalid binomials cluttering the literature of this genus. In the following notes of species of *Hypericum* native to southeastern United States, *H. spathulatum* Keller is reduced to synonymy; *H. arborescens* Chap., a little known synonym of *H. fasciculatum* Lam., is discussed; and the names of two common species, *H. aureum* Bartr. and *H. petiolatum* Walt., are shown to be invalid.

**Hypericum frondosum** Michaux, Fl. Bor. Am. 2: 81 (1803). — Poiret, Encycl. Suppl. 3: 699 (1813). — Muhlenberg, Cat. Pl. Am. Sept. 68 (1813). — Choisy in DC. Prodr. Syst. Nat. 1: 544 (1824).

*Hypericum aureum* Bartram, Travels, 383 (1791). — Non Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 2: 472 (1790).

*Hypericum ascyroides* var.  $\beta$  Poiret, Encycl. Suppl. 3: 694 (1813).

*Hypericum amoenum* Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2: 375 (1814).

*Hypericum Rugelianum* Kunze in Linnaea, 24: 177 (1851).

*Hypericum prolificum* var. *aureum* Koehne, Deutsch. Dendrol. 416 (1893).

*Hypericum frondosum* is manifestly the oldest valid name for this species which has long been known to both botanists and horticulturists as *H. aureum*. Muhlenberg was the first to dispose of Bartram's name as a synonym of *H. frondosum*, but unfortunately he was not followed by later botanists.

**Hypericum galioides** Lam. var. **pallidum** Mohr in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 6: 621 (1901).

? *Hypericum ambiguum* Elliott, Sketch Bot. S. Car. Ga. 2: 30 (1824).

*Hypericum galioides* Lam. var. *ambiguum* (Elliott ?) Chapman, Fl. S. United States 40 (1860), ? p. p.

*Hypericum spathulatum* R. Keller in Bot. Jahrb. 58: 195 (1923). — Non Steudel, Nomencl. Bot. ed. 2, 1: 789 (1841). — **Syn. nov.**

An isotype of Keller's species in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum is identical with *Hypericum galioides* var. *pallidum*. Some writers

do not recognize this variety at all, and others, such as Small, maintain it as a distinct species under the name *H. ambiguum*. The validity of the epithet *ambiguum* is questionable, for it is doubtful whether this is the plant which Elliott had in mind. Mohr, pointing this out, made the change from var. *ambiguum* to var. *pallidum*.

### **Hypericum** sp.

*Hypericum revolutum* R. Keller in Bot. Jahrb. 58: 194 (1923). — Non Vahl, Symb. Bot. 1: 66 (1790).

I have seen an isotype of Keller's *Hypericum revolutum* in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum. It seems close to *H. galioides* Lam., but the material at hand is insufficient to decide whether it is conspecific with this species or not. However, if it should prove to be distinct, a new name will be necessary, for Keller overlooked Vahl's previous use of the same specific name.

### **Hypericum fasciculatum** Lamarck, Encycl. Méthod. 4: 160 (1797).

*Hypericum nitidum* Lamarck, Encycl. Méthod. 4: 160 (1797).

*Myriandra nitida* Spach in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 2, 5: 365 (1836); Hist. Nat. Vég. 5: 436 (1836).

*Myriandra Brathydis* Spach, Hist. Nat. Vég. 5: 436 (1836), excl. syn. *Hypericum aspalathoides* Willd.

*Hypericum arborescens* Chapman, Fl. S. United States, ed. 2, suppl. 2, 680 (1892). — Non Vahl, Symb. Bot. 2: 86, t. 43 (1791).

*Hypericum arborescens* Chapman in Biltmore Herb. Distrib. Dupl. Chapman Herb. no. 5735<sup>a</sup>, as synonym of *H. fasciculatum* Lam.

As indicated above, a printed label attached to specimens distributed as duplicates of the Chapman Herbarium, bears Chapman's reduction of *Hypericum arborescens* to *H. fasciculatum*. The great similarity between the original description of *H. arborescens* in the second and that of *H. fasciculatum* in the third edition of his Flora, and the fact that he does not mention *H. arborescens* in the third edition are added evidence that Chapman no longer thought *H. arborescens* to be a species distinct from *H. fasciculatum*. This decision of Chapman is foreshadowed in the following excerpt from a letter to Professor Sargent dated June 4, 1895:

"My *Hypericum arborescens*, as a new species I give up, for I find, to my surprise, that it is not confined to this vicinity, but is more or less common in other parts of this state, and as far westward, at least, as Mobile. Which one of the described species it may prove to be, I am unable, for want of a library, to even guess, unless it be Lamarck's own *H. fasciculatum*. It is found along old Bartram's route, and may have been one of his gatherings.

"The genus is in labyrinthine confusion so far as our species are con-

cerned and our botanists who have examined the types seem to vary in their conclusions.

"I have measured the tallest of the specimens in the locality near here, and found some a little over fifteen feet, while some twenty miles west I am confident I have seen them taller — possibly twenty feet."

**Hypericum Walteri** Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 2: 1159 (1791), as *Hypericon Walteri*.

*Hypericum petiolatum* Walter, Fl. Carol. 191 (1788). — Non Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2, 1102 (1763), nec Linnaeus f. Suppl. 345 (1781).

*Hypericum axillare* Michaux, Fl. Bor. Am. 2: 81 (1803).

*Hypericum campanulatum*  $\beta$ ? Poiret, Encycl. Suppl. 3: 696 (1813).

*Elodea petiolata* Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2: 379 (1814).

*Hypericum paludosum* Choisy, Prodr. Monogr. Hypéric. 43 (1821); in DC. Prodr. Syst. Nat. 1: 546 (1824).

*Martia petiolata* Sprengel, Syst. Veg. 3: 333 (1826).

*Elodea floribunda* Spach in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 2, 5: 169 (1836); Hist. Nat. Vég. 5: 367 (1836).

*Elodea axillaris* Spach in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 2, 5: 170 (1836); Hist. Nat. Vég. 5: 368 (1836).

*Triadenum petiolatum* Britton in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. 2: 437, fig. 2465 (1897).

*Elodes petiolata* Gray, Manual, ed. 5, 86 (1867).

*Gardenia petiolata* Farwell in Am. Midl. Nat. 8: 35 (1922).

The name generally employed for this species is *H. petiolatum*, but Walter's use of the specific epithet *petiolatum* is clearly antedated by *H. petiolatum* Linn. and *H. petiolatum* Linn. f. Gmelin, noticing Walter's error, created the *nomen novum*, *H. Walteri*, as follows: "Walteri, 52 H. foliis petiolatis, staminum corporibus ad medium connatis. Walt. Flor. Carol. p. 191." To my knowledge, Steudel's Nomenclator Botanicus (ed. 2, 1: 789. 1841) is the only place where the name *H. Walteri* appears after the eighteenth century outside of Index Kewensis. Steudel incorrectly attributed the binomial to Raeuschel,<sup>1</sup> and doubtfully referred it to *H. paludosum* as a synonym. The acceptance of *H. Walteri* necessitates the following nomenclatorial change:

**Hypericum Walteri** Gmel. var. **tubulosum** (Walter), comb. nov.

*Hypericum tubulosum* Walter, Fl. Carol. 191 (1788).

*Elodea tubulosa* Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2: 379 (1814).

*Elodea pauciflora* Spach in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 2, 5: 169 (1836); Hist. Nat. Vég. 5: 366 (1836).

*Elodes tubulosa* Watson, Bibl. Index N. Am. Bot. 1: 124 (1878).

*Triadenum longifolium* Small in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 25: 140 (1898).

<sup>1</sup>Raeuschel merely listed the name *H. Walteri* without citation in the third edition of his Nomenclator Botanicus.

*Gardenia longifolia* Farwell in Am. Midl. Nat. 8: 34 (1922).

*Hypericum petiolatum* Walter var. *tubulosum* Fernald in Rhodora, 38: 436 (1936), excl. syn. *Elodea Drummondii* Spach.

*Hypericum Walteri* has always been described as having connate filaments which separate at or, more commonly, above the middle. Inasmuch as I have not had opportunity to examine sufficient material of this species and its variety to determine satisfactorily the value of this character, I have hesitated to dispose definitely of *Elodea Drummondii*, for Spach (Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 2, 5: 166. 1836) places it and *E. virginica* Nutt. (= *Hypericum virginicum* Linn.) together in a section characterized as "Androphori filamentis 3-4-plo breviores."

ARNOLD ARBORETUM,  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY.